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THE UNITED FARMERS of ALBERTA

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Co-operative Wheat Marketing System Can and Will Be Established

Failure to Obtain Compulsory Board Makes Action to Create Voluntary Pool Imperative —Calgary Meeting Considers Ways and Means of Establishing Pool.

By PRESIDENT WOOD.

In 1921, after failing to get the 1919 Wheat Board continued, the farm organizations, including the two companies, formed a committee to organize a Wheat Pool. After several meetings this committee made a final report to the Canadian Council of Agriculture without having succeeded in their undertaking.

Having failed in 1921 in their efforts to get a pool organized, the farmers' organizations the next year renewed their efforts to secure the re-establishment of the Wheat Board, believing this to be the most practical first step in the establishment of a co-operative system of wheat selling.

Legislation was secured from the Dominion Government to that end, this legislation to be supplemented by Provincial legislation by at least two of the Prairie Provinces. Alberta and Saskatchewan having passed the necessary legislation, an effort was made to get a board organized for the selling of the 1922 crop. But owing to the fact that the Manitoba wheat would not be under the control of the board, and to the short time in which the board would have to organize and equip for the handling of the wheat, and for other reasons that have already been discussed, it was found impossible to get suitable men to act on the Board. Consequently the efforts to get a Board that year, failed.

The demand for the Wheat Board was renewed by the farmers this year, and Alberta and Saskatchewan again responded, but the Manitoba Government failed to do so. Efforts to organize a suitable board were again made by the Premiers of Alberta and Saskatchewan, but these efforts again failed, as it was again impossible to get suitable men to serve on the Board. One of the reasons why it was difficult to get capable men was that the Board was to be only temporary, and men did not care to break established connections to undertake a difficult organization that would probably last only one year.

So the establishment of a Wheat Board has again failed this year, and I think it is the general opinion of those most interested in the matter, that it would be unwise, if not futile, to continue our efforts to secure a compulsory Board. This does not mean that there is an inclination anywhere among the farmers to continue submissive endurance of a selling system that they realise more fully than ever before is all wrong, and can never be made right. This system has already fallen under the condemnation of all the English speaking, wheat exporting countries of the world, and its passing is inevitable. So far as Western Canada is concerned, the only question is, Where do we go from here? What is the next best step to take in securing a wheat marketing system in which the interest of the seller will not only have some consideration, but the seller himself will have something to say about the price?

I think there will be no division of opinion that not only the best thing, but the only thing to do is to renew our efforts to establish a voluntary pool system. It is true that the committee composed of representatives of all the farmers' organizations in the three Provinces failed in 1921, but this failure does not represent final defeat. There are other ways of going about the organization of a pool.

Perhaps the most logical, and quickest way to get it in operation would be for the two farmers' Grain Companies to take the initiative. These companies have the organization already set up to enable them to begin the work of organizing a pool at once. Their equipment, including some 800 country elevators, and several terminals, is all essential to the practical operation of the pool, and it is already the property of the farmers who want the pool. It is being impressed upon us more all the time, by the development of conditions and by those who presume to advise, that if we want things done, we must do them ourselves. All the activities of these companies in the handling of grain up to the present time have been preparatory to the co-operative selling of the grain. Their work has led up to that point, and a time has come for them to pass over the border line into the real promised land of co-operative grain marketing.

This does not mean that these companies should, through their management, control and operate a company pool. It means that the companies should be merged into a real co-operative pool, operated by, and in the interest of the producers, in full accord with the Sapiro principles of co-operative marketing. The officials of one of the companies are already seriously considering this question. The other company has not yet been heard from on the question. But suppose the companies for some reason are not ready to move at once in this enterprise, what then? If the leaders of the three Provinces can not or will not organize a pool, and if the companies are not yet ready to act in the initiative, the only thing left is for the people of each Province, through their own primary organizations, assisted where necessary by the Provincial Government, to move as quickly as possible in the organization of a Provincial pool. Through this method the wheat growers of each Province will become directly responsible for their own pool, and the leaders of each Province will be directly responsible for their actions to their own people. As fast as the Provinces are organized they can join together in one pool or selling system.

(Continued on page 11).

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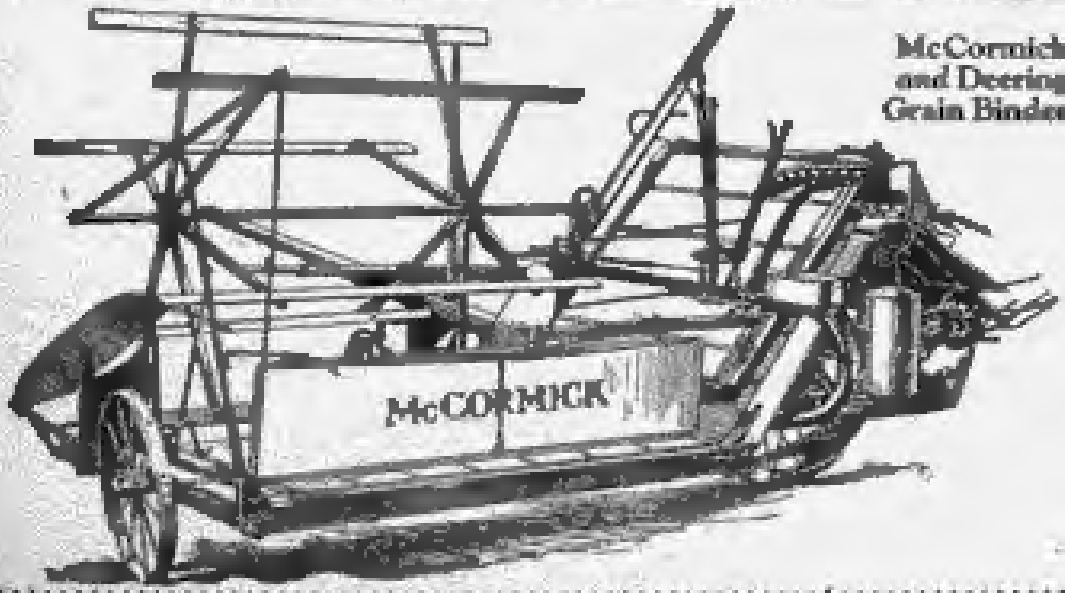

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EDITORIAL

Whatever may have been the contributory causes of the defeat of the Drury administration, there can be no doubt that, in the rural districts at least, a primary cause was the Premier's flirtation with the policy sometimes described as "broadening out." This occasioned a split in the farmers' movement, destroyed the confidence of a majority of the farmers in the Government, and paved the way for reaction.

No one who has been able to follow, even in an imperfect way, the political history of Ontario during the past twelve or eighteen months, can fail to recognize that this is true. The facts have been matters of public discussion. They have been widely canvassed in that portion of the daily press of Canada which in the past has praised Premier Drury for his untiring advocacy of "broadening out," commended the "sanity" and "soundness" of his policy, and now, when the seeds of disaster sown by the leader of the Government have borne their inevitable fruit, joyously welcome Mr. Drury's overthrow as indicating the rejection of "unsound theories" and "class selfishness and narrowness," and a return to "sane thought." It would be interesting, if space permitted, to quote in parallel columns the editorials which appeared in certain Alberta newspapers about a year ago, when Premier Drury was hailed as the "white hope" of partyism, and the comments of those papers today.

In the Ontario elections of 1919, many thousands of farmers for the first time severed old party connections, in order that the agricultural group might obtain adequate representation in the Provincial Assembly. They came from both parties, and if, after the overwhelming victory of 1919, when the votes recorded for farmer candidates exceeded all reasonable expectations, there was, among the leaders in the Legislature, a lack of clearness as to the future, it is certain that the farmers did not abandon their old parties with a view to creating another party on the old plan.

Almost a year has passed since definite proposals, looking to the abandonment by the farmers of the distinctive character of their organization as a group in active politics, were first advanced by the Premier. These proposals were decisively rejected by the U.F.O. Convention, and for a time it appeared that the "broadening out" policy was not being pressed to an issue by the Government. But it was evident that the confidence of the farmers in the Drury Government had been seriously shaken. When, on the eve of the election, the suspicion was aroused that negotiations were being conducted with the Liberal party, friction within the movement became intense.

In 1919 the farmers of Ontario made a definite breach with partyism, abandoning in many cases life-long associations, and they were prepared to blaze a new trail in democratic progress. The debacle which has overwhelmed the Drury administration shows at least this—that in seeking to lead the farmers back into courses which they had repudiated, Premier Drury succeeded only in creating among them utter confusion.

* * *

In this issue is a summary of the results achieved by the Australian wheat pools, which are operated by the various States, with a central selling agency in London. The Australian wheat growers' problem differs in some important particulars from ours, but "down under" co-operative pooling has apparently come to stay. The Australians had the experience of several years' collective selling through a wheat board, and the voluntary pooling system developed as the natural outcome.

* * *

Though it committed some unfortunate blunders, the Drury Government, on its administrative record, did not deserve its fate. It had to its credit much progressive legislation, and it gave to the people of Ontario honest and for the most part capable administration of public affairs. It was more interested in the welfare of the people than its predecessors, or than its successors are likely to be. Ontario has taken, for the moment, a backward step.

* * *

President E. W. Beatty of the C.P.R., who has recently been demanding a strong immigration policy, is anxious that everything should be done to make Western Canada more attractive to the prospective immigrant. In this the company and the C.P.R. contract holders are in agreement. The most effective step which the company can take to make this wish a reality is to provide such terms of payment on C.P.R. lands as will give the settler at least a reasonable opportunity to make good.

* * *

"Mr. H. W. Wood is reported in an interview to have said that he did not think the Ontario election result would have any significance with reference to Alberta. Which indicates that Mr. Wood's thinking apparatus is not in as good working order as it should be."

This urbane editorial comment appeared in the Calgary Herald. Will the editor of the Herald, whose thinking apparatus we assume to be in good working order, kindly explain just what significance the Ontario election will bear, with reference to Alberta?

* * *

Only by a careful reading of Hansard and of the published proceedings of various committees, can Alberta farmers obtain even a fair knowledge of the work which has been done by many of their representatives during the session of the House of Commons, which closed on June 30th. The articles contributed by U.F.A. members of Parliament have contained much valuable information on the national questions which have been under consideration in the House. The last of the series which was arranged when Parliament opened will be published in the July 15th issue of "The U.F.A." H. E. Spencer, U.F.A. member for Battle River, has undertaken during the session the onerous duty of secretary to the Alberta group, and as this work has been super-added to very active work in the Committee on Banking and Commerce, and in the House, he has been unable to contribute.

* * *

The presence in Canadian Universities of some professors whose political opinions it dislikes, is described by the Calgary Herald as "a menace." It seems to believe that restrictive action is necessary. But if freedom in expression of opinion is to be denied in a university, where should it be permitted?

* * *

The Albertan believes that the party system is returning, but that "it will take a longer time in Alberta than in the other Provinces because the foundation work of the U.F.A.

Liberals and Conservatives Unite to Force Bank Act Through

No Greater Monopoly in Canada Than Banking System—Little Outstanding Legislation in Parliament During Session of 1926

By W. T. LUCAS, M.P.

The revision of the Bank Act has finally been forced through the House in spite of the heroic efforts of the Progressives and Labor and in spite of the protests that have come to the Government from various representative bodies all over Canada. The amendments which have been made to the act are of minor importance, and the banks have secured a renewal of charter for another ten years, thanks to the united efforts of both Liberal and Conservative members in the House—both parties uniting solidly to defeat the Progressives with the exception of W. F. McLean (independent Conservative, S. York).

Space forbids going into detail, but the whole story with the banks as in other lines of big business, is one formation after another of Combine, Merger and Monopoly, and of the lot there is none more far-reaching in Canada today than the giant monopoly of our banking system.

A review of the legislative work of the session, now expected to be drawing to a close, forces one to the conclusion that, although the session has been a long and tiresome one, no outstanding legislation has to date been passed.

Justice for Ex-Service Men

Since the last report was sent from Ottawa, the outstanding question before the House and of interest to the country was the amendments to the Pension Act. Amendments to this act give effect to the recommendations of the Ralston Commission and will facilitate the pensioning process. While there was some criticism, the view predominating was that as a commission had gone thoroughly into the matter, its findings should not be tampered with. The principal thing about the bill is the restoration of the insurance principle. The old act provided that when a man enlisted and was accepted, he was regarded as in A.1 condition and upon discharge to be pensionable for any condition arising during service, but not necessarily attributable to service.

In 1921 an amendment was made to the act, the effect of which was to make members of the permanent force prove that any disability was due to service. The Pension Board extended this to the C. E. F. generally. The Ralston Commission having found that this was not the intention of Parliament, has re-established the old principle. This means that a soldier may be pensioned for any disability developing during service save as is traceable to misconduct. The Canadian public in general and the ex-service men in particular will be encouraged by the tone of the debate which arose over pensions and the policy of the Pension Commissioners. I feel safe in saying that those who took part in the debate voiced the feeling of the people of the Dominion that there should be a more sympathetic application of the pension law. The above amendments are now before the Senate and of course will have to receive its sanction before becoming law. (See conclusion of article).

> In the article on this page W. T. Lucas, the U. F. A. member for Victoria, reviews the Parliamentary history of the past two weeks, and briefly discusses the work of the session as a whole. "Faced as we are on every side by ironclad organizations of every business interest," he concludes, "unless we awaken and are prepared to meet organization with organization, we might as well give up right now. But remember this, that in so doing we give up our right to be free men."

When the railway estimates were before the House a few nights ago, a very spirited debate lasting for almost two days arose over the acquisition of the Scribe Hotel in Paris by Sir Henry Thornton.

Free Hand for Thornton

The Conservatives are feeling disgruntled over the fact that the old Canadian National management whom they had appointed have been discharged and a new board with Sir Henry Thornton as president is taking their place. They thought in this Paris deal they had something on Sir Henry, claiming as this meant a capital outlay, he had no authority to make same without the sanction of Parliament. A legal battle developed lasting for several hours, but on the assurance by the Minister of Railways that the transaction had been approved by Mr. Rusl, legal counsel for the railways, who is a recognized authority on such matters, and that full details would be furnished when the transaction was completed, the Progressives voted solidly for the item, feeling that the country has placed the management of our giant railway system in the hands of Sir Henry and his board and that they must be given a fair chance to make good.

W. T. LUCAS, M.P.

While two million dollars are involved in this transaction, it is only in the nature of a loan. Sir Henry Thornton having resided in Paris both before and after his appointment, came to the conclusion that the Canadian National Railways should have an office on one of the main streets of the French capital. A short time ago he received word that just the kind of location he required could be secured. As there were others after this building, he wired to a gentleman in Paris to secure it and that the Canadian National would temporarily finance it. A syndicate has been formed to take it over and the Canadian National will thus have a home in one of the best locations in the city of Paris without any capital expenditure on the part of the Dominion of Canada or of the Canadian National Railways.

The Merchant Marine ran into heavy weather when a vote for $1,500,000 came up for the sanction of Parliament. Wm. Duff, a lusty ship owner from Nova Scotia, launched out into a tirade against the Merchant Marine. If one was to be guided by his statements one would come to the conclusion that the best thing to do would be to take the whole lot out into deep water and scuttle them.

Private Interests and Government Ships

When we ask why our Merchant Marine cannot carry our grain, our cattle, etc., we are told that they are not built for such trade, but in sizing up the situation, one is tempted to think that the privately owned shipping interests do not want any interference in their business by Government owned ships. In the investigation before the Special Agricultural Committee this session, evidence was given of a giant shipping combine on the North Atlantic and that the officials of the Government Merchant Marine sat in with said combine when rates were being fixed.

The Royal Commission which was appointed to look into lake shipping rates has completed its work and brought in a report definitely establishing that a powerful steamship combine exists on the Great Lakes. The action of this combine last fall, when our grain crop was being moved, was nothing short of criminal, millions of dollars being filched from the pockets of the farmers.

A bill is being brought in which it is hoped will prevent a recurrence of such conditions but no action is being taken to bring the guilty parties to justice.

Redistribution Deadlock

The redistribution bill which should come before Parliament this session, is still in committee and from all reports there appears to be no hope of the members of said committee being able to agree. In spite of the promise of Prem-

(Continued on page 10).

C.P.R Contract Holders Ask New Contracts on Pre-emption Plan

Request Twenty-year Contracts, With Interest Payable on Arrears Only, and Present Relief on Certain Payments—Contract Limit of $25 per Acre, Exclusive of Improvements—Permanent Association Organized at Calgary Meeting

Requesting the Canadian Pacific Railway to enter into new contracts which will provide for present and prospective settlers a reasonable prospect of becoming the owners of the farms which they occupy during their own lives, a well-attended meeting of delegates appointed by the holders of C.P.R. land contracts held in the U. F. A. Central Office during the third week in June, formulated definite proposals which have been submitted to the executive of the railway company. The proposals are printed in full on this page. The delegates were unanimously of the opinion that if the present tendency to depopulation is to be checked, and desired new settlement to be brought about in a satisfactory manner, the present settlers must be relieved of at least some of the serious handicaps under which they are now laboring.

Organize Permanent Body.

Under the name of "The C.P.R. Contract Holders' Immigration Association," the delegates organized a permanent association, and elected an Executive Committee to present the farmers' proposals to the company. Members of this executive are: G. L. Carpender, (Irricana), chairman; W. D. Trego, (Calgary), secretary; J. C. Buckley, Gleichen; C. C. Star, Rosemary; S. J. Ewing, Irricana; W. A. Hiatt, Raintree.

Following the meeting the executive prepared a detailed memorandum, setting forth the reasons for the farmers' requests, and this statement has now been mailed to the C.P.R. executive. It is signed by the chairman, Mr. Carpender, a member of the U.F.A. Central Board, in behalf of the Executive Committee of the new Association.

Committee Representative of Contract Holders.

In a letter to U.F.A. Locals, W. D. Trego, the secretary, states that the committee will be glad to have the members of the Locals who are interested in the matter to consider very carefully the proposals which have been submitted to the C.P.R. officials. "It might be well to point out in this connection," he says, "that the stockholders of the C.P.R. have their Board of Directors to represent them, and the Board of Directors again have their Executive Committee to represent the Board of Directors, and no stockholder of the C.P.R. would think of trying to deal with the individual land contract holder, or with the committee, except through the Board of Directors and Executive Committee when they have acting in their behalf.

"Your Committee is endeavoring to represent you in just the same manner that the C.P.R. officials represent the stockholders.

"It must be evident to every contract holder that some funds will be required to meet necessary expenses in connection with the work of the Committee, and we are submitting a form of agreement which we will ask each one to sign who feels that he would like the Committee to act for him."

The agreement referred to has now been submitted to the Locals. The expense, Mr. Trego points out, will be prorated in proportion to the acres of land which each member may hold, so that each will be asked to pay in proportion to the benefits which he may expect to receive from any adjustment which may be made in his behalf. The amount which may be called for is indicated in the agreement.

"It is the hope of the Committee," Mr. Trego adds, "that the expenses will be very small, and we will not call any assessment until we find it absolutely essential to get funds into the treasury. The Committee will be glad to receive any constructive ideas at any time from any U.F.A. Locals or any committee who may represent any Locals."

Legal Liabilities Not Disputed.

In presenting proposals to the C.P.R. the farmers do not dispute any of their legal liabilities under the present contracts, but request full consideration of the matters set forth in the memorandum, which is in the following terms:

C. P. R. CONTRACT HOLDERS' IMMIGRATION ASSOCIATION.
3830 7a Street West,
Calgary,
June 23rd, 1923.

To the Canadian Pacific Railway Company:

A representative meeting of delegates appointed by C.P.R. contract holders who are actively engaged in farming on these lands in Alberta, was held in the Lougheed Building, Calgary, on June 20th, for the purpose of considering the proposal outlined by President E. W. Beatty of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, to convert existing contracts into 34 year contracts on an amortization plan. The delegates shared the desire of the Canadian Pacific Railway to retain existing settlers on the land, and to bring about such conditions as will lead to immigration on a greatly extended scale. They were unanimously of the opinion that if the present emigration is to be effectively checked, and the much needed immigration policy to be developed in a satisfactory manner, it is essential that existing and prospective settlers shall have at least a reasonable prospect of becoming the owners of their own homes during the period of their own lives. The meeting was also unanimous in the opinion that the terms recently proposed by the C.P.R. do not hold out this reasonable assurance. A committee of which I have the honor to be chairman was appointed to lay before you the results of their deliberations.

Relief Imperatively Necessary.

We have viewed with increasing alarm the depopulation of the farms in Alberta. We believe that every legitimate means should be employed to reverse the ebb-tide of emigration, which for some time past has been abnormal, and to convert it into a flowing tide of new settlers to fill Canada's vacant spaces. If this desirable end is to be achieved and our country is to prosper and advance, it is imperative that our settlers should secure relief from some of the more onerous handicaps under which they now labor. We, as settlers on C.P.R. lands in Alberta, have freely given of our best efforts, and stuck by our guns in the face of adverse circumstances, and we now ask the company to give us the relief which is so vitally necessary, and which is in their power. We have been heavy losers. We desire the opportunity, for ourselves and for others who we hope may come, to become established citizens, and not bankrupts. We are interested in land solely as homemakers, desiring permanent homes.

During the course of our meeting instances were given of the loss from C.P.R.

(Continued on page 9).

CONTRACT HOLDERS' PROPOSALS

The proposals of the contract holders are set forth in the following resolution which was unanimously adopted by the meeting of delegates:

Whereas we, the holders of C.P.R. land contracts, have spent many years laboring on these lands to establish and own our homes, but find it almost impossible to pay for them, owing to the many and various adverse conditions we are obliged to contend with, viz., frost, drought, hail, insect pests, high freight rates, low prices, etc., etc.; although our optimism has been occasionally stimulated by a good crop and we are in hopes of meeting our payments regularly, yet these hopes are again dashed to pieces by a recurrence of some of these plagues.

We therefore request the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to give us such relief from our contracts as will make it possible for us to stay here and accomplish the purpose for which we came, as, notwithstanding how hard we work, we cannot continue while getting deeper into debt;

And we therefore ask that the C.P.R.:

1. Cancel all unpaid accrued and accruing interest charges since 1918, and
2. Defer all payments of principal until the spring of 1925.
3. That all payments made since January 1st, 1918, be applied on principal,
4. That as a basis of further settlement new contracts be entered into, effective April 1st, 1925, under the Dominion Government pre-emption plan, with twenty equal annual payments of principal with no interest charges excepting on payments of principal which have become overdue, and which shall bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent. until paid,
5. That there shall be a contract limit of $25.00 per acre exclusive of improvements,
6. That water rentals shall not exceed in any case $1.00 per acre,
7. That where the contract holder is not a resident farmer, that has resort his holdings, he shall only participate in the above contract provided he agrees to pass on the new terms to the resident purchaser,
8. That where it is found that the land has not the proper under drainage and is bringing alkali to the surface in sufficient quantities to destroy vegetation, the purchasers shall be entitled to a refund of all payments made or charged against such lands; and
9. That where there is not the natural drainage to take care of waste water, the C.P.R. shall assume all responsibility.

The Provincial Secretary's Page

Information for Officers and Members.

EXPRESS RATE ON POULTRY

It will be of interest to our members to hear that the Central Office recently made application to the Express Traffic Association of Canada for a revision of the Express Classification of Canada No. 5, which relates to the rates charged on shipments of purebred poultry for show or breeding purposes.

The Canadian Express tariff at the present time requires that shipments of purebred poultry in straw-board or fibre-board containers carry a rate of twice the first class rate, as compared with 1½ times first class when shipped in slatted coops. The American Express tariff was revised a year or two ago, making the rate on straw-board or fibre-board coops the same as on slatted coops. The Canadian Express Traffic Association is in favor of a change, bringing the Canadian tariff into line with the American tariff, and has applied to the Railway Commission for their approval. This proposed revision, which was suggested by the U. F. A. Central Office, if approved, means a reduction in the rate charged on shipments of purebred poultry amounting to 25 per cent.

U.F.A. MADE THIS POSSIBLE.

Eighteen carloads of cattle and hogs have been shipped already by the co-operative livestock shipping association recently organized by twenty U.F.A. Locals in the Castor and Coronation districts, in conjunction with the U.G.G. The officers of the association are: H. Sheardown, Bulwark, president; L. H. Woody, Coronation, vice-president; H. Gildemeester, Coronation, secretary-treasurer; and John Egger, Lake Thelma, P. Sturrock, Brownfield, J. F. Cameron, Fleet, and J. Hood, Castor, directors. Geo. E. Frick, of Coronation, is the shipper. The shipper's salary, of a fixed amount, is returned from the commissions charged the patrons. In a brief report on the progress of the association, Mr. Gildemeester says, "There is no question but the ease with which the organization was effected was due to the existence of an efficient U. F. A. organization. Moral: keep the U.F.A. one hundred per cent. efficient and you can organize anything else."

LAC STE. ANNE CONVENTION

The annual convention of the Lac Ste. Anne U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. Provincial Constituency Association will be held at Whitecourt on Friday, July 13th, commencing at 1 p.m. Resolutions may be submitted and other matters concerning the welfare of the constituency will be discussed. M. C. McKeen, M.L.A., will be present and discuss legislative matters.

SOUTH EDMONTON ASSOCIATION.

At a general meeting of the South Edmonton U.F.A. Provincial Constituency Association, attended by representatives of eleven Locals, resolutions were passed reaffirming opposition to Government operated Labor Bureaux; requesting the Provincial Government at the next redistribution to reduce the total number of seats to forty; and desiring that the United Farmers of Alberta should take action towards building and operating a grain elevator at Vancouver, in order to facilitate the movement of grain westward.

DEFICIT FUND NOW TOTALS $1,785.45.

The following contributions to the fund to wipe out the deficit incurred in 1921 are acknowledged:

Previously acknowledged	$1,555.50
Dewker, No. 543	5.00
Clivale, No. 757	10.00
Thompson, No. [illegible]	5.00
Linda, No. [illegible]	2.50
Hay Lakes	12.00
Creighton, No. 191	5.00
North Park, No. 884	5.00
L. W. McKinnon	10.00
Total	$1,785.45

HAND HILLS CONVENTION.

The annual convention of the Hand Hills Constituency U.F.A. Association will be held in Patricia Hall, Hanna, on July 26th, 1923, beginning at 10 a.m. Mr. G. A. Forster, M.L.A., will be present to discuss, among other matters, the Provincial Platform.

VICTORIA CONVENTION.

The annual convention of the Victoria U.F.A. Federal Constituency Association will be held in Camrose on July 6th, commencing at 9 a.m. It is expected that W. T. Lucas, M.P., will be present and report on the 1923 session of the Dominion Parliament.

LITTLE BOW CONVENTION.

The annual convention of the Little Bow U.F.A. Provincial Constituency Association will be held in the I.O.O.F. Hall, Vulcan, on July 25th, commencing at 10 a.m. O. L. McPherson, M.L.A., will give an address, and it is expected also that President Wood and E. J. Garland, M.P., will be present and speak. A cordial invitation is extended to all U.F.A. members and friends to be present.

CRAIGMYLE CONVENTION.

Resolutions passed by the Craigmyle U.F.A. District Association, which met in convention in Delia on June 2nd, ask for a legal recall, request Central Office to secure the services of Mr. Aaron Sapiro to explain co-operative marketing, recommend that a plan of co-operative marketing be submitted to the Locals for their consideration, and instruct the officers of the District Association to arrange for a series of inter-Local debates.

G. A. Forster, M.L.A., spoke on the enforcement of the Liquor Act and the Provincial poultry marketing service. Mr. Hart, of the South Hand Hills District Association, gave a short address on co-operative marketing; and P.W. Bilwiller, the president, spoke on the responsibility of individual members.

CENTRAL OFFICE MAIL.

Over 1,300 letters per month are received at the Central Office. In December and January incoming letters exceeded 2,000 per month. Outgoing letters and circulars exceed 2,000 per month, and occasionally run as high as 4,000 per month.

DEATH OF MR. H. T. SIMPSON.

Harry T. Simpson, of Hanna, who had been for some years an active supporter of the farmers' movement, died on June 19th. He was a director of the Hand Hills Constituency Association, first vice-president of the Craigmyle District U. F. A. Association, and had been for the last three years president of the Hanna Co-operative Association.

The U.F.W.A and Junior Branch.

UNIVERSITY WEEK NOTES.

A number of communities will be hearing reports from their delegates to University Week for Farm Young People. It would be interesting to know what event made the most outstanding impression. But, however detailed the report, it will be difficult for our literal-tongued young Albertans to express the intangible quality which makes of this week, when the best of our young farm people gather at the Provincial University, something more than a mere short course in agriculture and citizenship, something more than a seldom experienced trip through the Province, something more than an opportunity for association with other young people of similar interests and experiences.

We are prone to forget that Alberta's younger generation has grown almost to maturity without that background of permanency, which has its drawbacks, it is true, but which nevertheless has a certain cultural advantage. It is partly the supplying of this lack of a cultural background in the lives of our Alberta farm young people that gives to University Week its individuality and its intangible appeal. The program itself is much more than a series of informative lectures, although the delegates found their capacity for assimilating facts fully taxed.

It is interesting to note that the President and Vice-President of the Junior U.F.A. have each a father in the Provincial Legislative Assembly. Donald Cameron, Jr., is the son of Donald Cameron, U.F.A. member for Innisfail, and Miss Vera Carson is the daughter of S. A. Carson, U.F.A. member for Sturgeon. These two officers of the Junior Branch responded very ably to the toast to "Our Guests," proposed by Dean Howes, at the closing banquet of the Conference.

Prof. Ottewell, who had charge of the Week, remarked that this Conference was unique in this particular, that "We have the courage, or the foolhardiness, as some people call it, of undertaking to put on a Short Course of this kind for both boys and girls." So far the plan has worked admirably.

The City of Edmonton did their guests the honor of supplying them with the large sight-seeing car, bedecked with the national colors, when on a tour of the International Harvester Co's. Warehouse and Plant of the Edmonton City Dairy.

The communities situated farthest from Edmonton who sent delegates to University Week were East Lethbridge; Purley, west of Magrath; Sedalia, north of Youngstown; Carnforth, south of Oyen; and Nanton. The highest return fare paid was $22.20 and the delegate received a refund of $19.50.

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A Plan of Co-operative Marketing for Alberta

PART TWO

By STEPHEN LUNN

W. J. Jackman, chairman of the General Marketing Committee of the U. F. A., contributed the first article on the above subject in the last issue of "The U. F. A." Stephen Lunn, another member of the committee, who writes in this issue, submits a proposed form of marketing agreement to be signed by members of co-operative marketing associations, and also a proposed membership agreement.

In the last issue of this paper there was an article by W. J. Jackman in which he outlined a suggested plan for the handling of our produce in a co-operative way. The need for something definite along these lines seems to be very much in evidence, and, judging by the number of inquiries that we have received, there seems to be a determination on the part of the members to devise some scheme under which this object can be obtained. The rate at which these inquiries were coming in determined us not to wait any longer, but to offer the members a suggested plan for them to consider.

Principle Proved to Be Sound

The writer of this article has made as great a study of this subject as was possible, and has also had the opportunity of seeing it tested in the Pincher Creek Association, of which he is the secretary. This association, which is founded on the lines that we are suggesting, has not been in existence for very long, but it has proved in that time that the principle is sound.

In advocating a co-operative scheme for Alberta it seems to me that the most essential point is to get the local associations started on the right lines; then it will not be very difficult to link them together into the main association or associations as the case may be. I will try to outline how, in my opinion, these can be started and operated.

In the first place it will be found of very great assistance to organise all the Locals that are adjacent to the one or more shipping points that will be used, into a District Association. This association should be composed of delegates appointed by these Locals on the basis of one to ten paid up members. It will be the duty of this association to look after the organization work and to procure a charter (unless a special Act has been passed that would cover them all) and to draw up or obtain a set of by-laws and a form of contract or market agreement. They will also have to appoint the Provisional Board of Trustees that is called for under the present Co-operative Act. The next step is to make a thorough canvass of the district to obtain the number of members that has been agreed upon as essential. It will be found advisable to draw up a form of membership agreement for them to sign. This agreement should point out briefly what the association intends to do, and the signing of it will bind the member to sign the contract later, in the event of that not being done at the same time, provided that the required number of signatures is obtained.

Good Management Vital

Having made a canvass of the district (we will presume that the required number has been obtained) the next step is to call a meeting of the members to confirm the work that has been done already and to appoint a permanent Board of Trustees, etc. This Board should immediately obtain a manager, who should be the best man that it is possible to get hold of. Too much stress cannot be placed on the importance of the choice of manager, as the success of the venture will largely depend upon his ability to find a good market and to feed it in a scientific manner. The motto of the association should be Quality, and it should live up to it.

In marketing the produce of the members it will be found that the pool system is a great advantage. A certain length of time is set for the pool to run, and all produce delivered and sold during that time participates in the proceeds. I will explain how that works. We will take hay as an instance and suppose that a short pool of two months is being used. In that time some twenty men have delivered 400 tons of hay; the association has disposed of 300 tons, so each man will be paid for 75 per cent. of the hay delivered by him and the balance will be carried over to the next pool. The price obtained for the hay is all pooled, and, after the deductions that are specified in the contract have been made, the balance is handed over to the members concerned.

To obtain the best results from the pool system it will be found advisable to make the pools run as long as possible, in some instances for a year, so as to obtain the average price for all.

Early Advance Payment

The matter of an advance payment as soon as possible after delivery is of great importance, and if possible some arrangement should be made so that this will be possible. I am sure that arrangements could be made with one of the banks or other financial institutions so that money would be advanced on the security of the produce to be handled by the association. The members should not expect the Board of Trustees to borrow money on their own security.

In handling eggs, dressed meat, poultry and other perishable goods, some kind of cold storage will have to be provided so that the usual low prices at the time of high production can be avoided.

I have so far only sketched out a plan for local associations. These, while they are of great assistance to the men who belong to them, are not going to solve the marketing problem. It will soon be seen by the members that they need something larger, as the problems that will arise in connection with the different commodities will point out the advisability of having associations formed to handle each of them by themselves. It will be found that the interests of the cattle men are different from those of the grain men or the hay men and that different reserves, etc., are necessary. The need also of creameries, cold storage plants and other plants will be found to be rather a large problem for these small associations.

(Continued on page 12)

C. P. R. CONTRACT HOLDERS ASK NEW CONTRACTS ON PRE-EMPTION PLAN.

(Continued from page 8).

contract lands of farmers who with youth, capital and families, had desired to make permanent homes in Canada, but had been compelled to turn their faces towards other countries, where they eventually settled.

It is possible that your executive may at first sight regard our proposals for relief as somewhat drastic. Nevertheless, we are confident that after careful consideration of all the facts you will come to the conclusion that these proposals are just, and that they will prove to the mutual benefit of the C.P.R., the settlers, and the country as a whole.

Advantages to Transportation Company.

We believe that the Canadian Pacific Railway itself will be distinctly the gainer should the proposals which we submit be adopted. We are confident that if this course is followed it will be possible to induce many of the farmers who have abandoned their lands to return, to become successful settlers, and, as the company's officers have acknowledged on many occasions, "the most efficient and reliable immigration agent is the contented settler." The return of those who have left, and the attraction of new settlers, which we are confident would ensue from the adoption of these proposals, would bring greatly increased freight and other traffic to the company, and would mean more work and business for that portion of the population which is engaged in supplying the needs of the agricultural population. It would also facilitate the rapid disposal by the company of the unsold portions of their lands, and relieve the company of present taxation on lands which would be resettled. The C.P.R. would have the satisfaction of inaugurating by this means a sound policy of immigration which could not fail to work out to the full satisfaction of the people, and the furtherance of the company's interests.

[The proposals and resolution passed by the delegates were outlined here. They are printed in black on the first page of this article].

Why Changes are Desirable.

In support of the above proposals, while not disputing our legal responsibilities under the present contracts, this Committee presents the following statement:

1. Cancellation of interest charges is asked because agricultural conditions have been so bad that the great majority of farmers have not realized sufficient from their farms to enable them to pay actual operating expenses. It will be noted that cancellation of interest which has accrued since 1918 only is asked. The year 1918 marked the beginning of a disastrous period for Alberta farmers. Whereas the years 1915, 1916 and 1917 were years of good crop yields and good prices, there commenced in the year 1918 a series of abnormally dry years; with the exception of the year 1920, which was a fair year, farmers got so little returns from their farming operations that in the majority of cases they have not been able to pay expenses and have existed in the main only by sacrificing their livestock and mortgaging their operating equipment.

Interest charges have been accumulated which in the majority of cases farmers have found it impossible to meet, and which they are not likely to be able to

(Continued on page 17).

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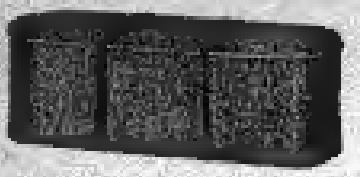

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Co-operative Pools Control Bulk of Australian Wheat Crop

Farmers of New South Wales Netted $1.13, and of Victoria $1.16, on Crop of 1921-22 —Returns on Recent Crop Will Be Higher.

Farmers of New South Wales, Australia, who shipped their wheat through the co-operative pool established by farmers' organizations in that state, received a net return, on wheat of the 1921-1922 crop, of 4 shillings and 7.81 pence per bushel, or $1.13. The total realizations were 5 shillings and 5.68 pence, ($1.32), from which were deducted charges for railway freight, handling, insurance, expenses due to a mouse plague, and administrative expenses. This information is contained in the final statement of accounts of the New South Wales Voluntary Wheat Pool Committee, published in "The Land," an official farmers' newspaper, in a copy which was recently received by "The U. F.A."

Net $1.16 in Victoria.

Final figures for the pool established in the State of Victoria are not yet available, but according to D. H. Ross, the Canadian Trade Commissioner at Melbourne, the total realization on the 1921-1922 crop, on grain sold through the farmers' pool, is expected to be 5 shillings and 5¼ pence, ($1.32½ cents), from which inland railway transportation and shipping charges totalling 8 pence (16 cents), will be deducted, leaving a net return to the growers of 4 shillings and 9¾ pence ($1.16).

Expect More This Year.

So far during the season of 1922-1923, the farmers have received an advance from their corporation of 4 shillings (97 cents), per bushel, with a deduction of 4½ pence, (9 cents), making 3 shillings and 7½ pence, (88 cents), net. Further advances will be made as sales are effected, and the total payments, says Mr. Ross, "are expected to exceed those of last year."

Some weeks ago a conference of the executives of the voluntary wheat pools in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia was held at Melbourne, when matters of common interest were discussed and a definite mutual plan of campaign for the continuance of pooling in future seasons was decided upon.

Will Control Bulk of Crop.

Mr. Ross declares that in spite of adverse interests to be contended against this season, "the voluntary pools in the four wheat growing States in Australia will control the bulk of the wheat exported in 1923." He adds that "the tendency of the wheat growers, after experiencing the results of selling through the pools and selling to private buyers, is more and more towards supporting a corporation controlled by themselves, and in which all the profits are distributed upon an equitable basis to primary producers.

"While admitting that in some of the States there has been considerable propaganda against voluntary pooling, yet it is undoubted that this pronounced antagonism is being overcome by reason of the results obtained. On expert (and disinterested) authority, it is conceded that so far the 1923 exports of wheat have been controlled by voluntary pools to the extent of 90 per cent. of the total in Western Australia, 75 per cent. in Victoria, 55 per cent. in New South Wales, and 50 per cent in South Australia.

"The Victorian Wheat Growers' Corporation (composed entirely of wheat growers), arranged its own finances with the Associated Banks in Melbourne, upon the following basis:

(1) An advance of 3 shillings, (73 cents), per bushel to growers on delivery of wheat at country railway stations.

(2) An advance of 8 pence (16 cents), per bushel to the Wheat Growers' Corporation, as required, to pay railway freight and working expenses.

(3) The negotiation of shipping documents and the transfer of funds from London, etc., to Melbourne."

LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES UNITE TO FORCE BANK ACT THROUGH

(Continued from page 4)

ier King that a fair redistribution bill would be brought down this session, it now appears that the intention is for a lot of real gerrymandering. So far as the members from the west are concerned, redistribution is overdue, and we want the Government to fulfil its pledge, and we are prepared if necessary to stay here until it is put through.

Organize or Give Up Hope of Freedom

In conclusion I want to say to the farmers of Canada that, faced as we are on every side by ironclad organizations by every business interest (as those of us who are privileged to be here can readily testify) unless we awaken and are prepared to meet organization with organization, we might as well give up right now. But remember this, that in so doing, we give up our right to be free men.

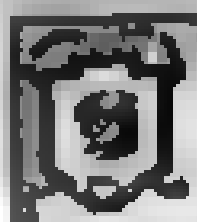
Prof. Jackman of Toronto University, appearing before the Special Agricultural Committee, used these words: "The difficulty here is that in connection with the farmer relations, he is an unorganized group of individuals and he is dealing in most cases with an organized group. So that when he is dealing as an individual with a series of organizations, the individual is no match for the organized effort of those with whom he is having his dealings. There is no question in my mind but that the system of the individual farmer dealing with the commercial structure of the present day is an out of date system."

Since the above was written the Senate, on motion of Hon. J. A. Calder and Sir James Lougheed, has refused second reading to the bill passed without division in the Commons, referring the bill instead to a special committee to review all the evidence. Returned soldiers' organizations, with the strong support of many other organizations throughout the country, have indignantly protested against this action, and called upon the Senate to bring the legislation into effect before the House prorogues.

The following wire was sent to Senator Griesbach on June 28th, in behalf of the Executive, by R. Higginbotham, secretary of the U. F. A.:

"Executive United Farmers of Alberta request that such action be taken by the Canadian Senate as will make effective at this session the legislation passed by House of Commons based on Hairton Committee report regarding soldiers' pensions."

The bill, amended, passed June 30.—Editor.



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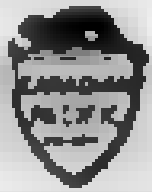

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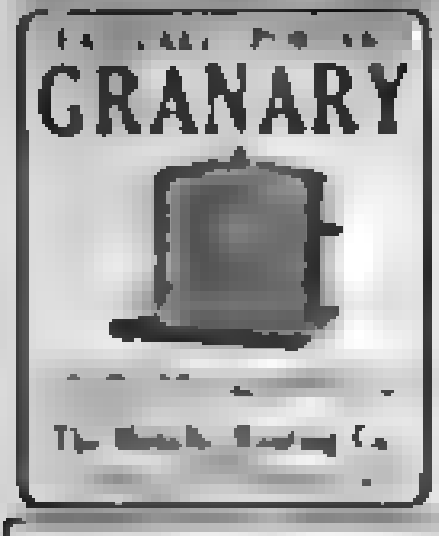
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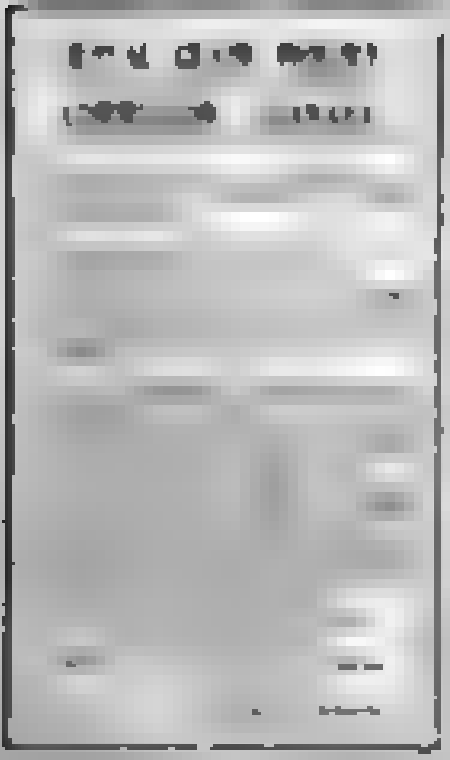


to a fellow farmer always providing that such produce shall be for the use of the purchaser in farming operations.

The Producer agrees to give the Association immediate written notice of any such sale, and further agrees to deliver promptly to the Association an accounting of such produce so disposed of.

9. If this agreement is signed by the members of a co-partnership, it shall bind each of them individually both during the life of and subsequently in the event of the dissolution or termination of said co-partnership.

10. This agreement shall be binding upon the Producer as long as he produces, acquires or controls any farm products directly or indirectly, in the district covered by this Association, during the term of this contract.

11. This agreement is one of a series generally similar in terms, comprising with all the agreements, signed by individual producers, or otherwise, one single contract between the Association and the said Producers, mutually and individually bound under all the terms thereof.

12. (a) Inasmuch as the remedy at law would be inadequate and inasmuch as it is now and ever will be impracticable and extremely difficult to determine the actual damage resulting to the Association, should the Producer fail to deliver all of his produce, the Producer hereby agrees to pay to the Association for all the produce withheld, delivered, sold, consigned or marketed by or for him other than in accordance with the terms hereof an amount equal to twenty-five per cent. of the amount paid and received, as liquidated damages for the breach of this agreement, all parties agreeing that this agreement is one of a series dependent for its true value upon the adherence of each and all of the Producers to each and all of the said Agreements.

(b) The Producer agrees that in the event of a breach or threatened breach by him of any provision regarding delivery of produce, the Association shall be entitled to an injunction to prevent breach or further breach hereof and to a decree for specific performance hereof; and that the parties agree that this is a contract for the marketing of personal property under special circumstances.

13. The parties agree that there are no oral or other conditions, promises, covenants, representations or inducements in addition to or at variance with any of the terms hereof, and that this agreement represents the voluntary and clear understanding of both parties fully and completely.

14. The Producer hereby appoints the Association his sole and exclusive agent for the purposes above set forth with full power and authority to transact such business and take such action as may be necessary, incidental or convenient for the accomplishment thereof; and appoints the Association as his attorney for all such purposes.

15. This agreement shall not become effective until at least.....similar agreements have been signed, and the date of the signing of the last agreement shall be the date of the commencement of this contract, and the date from which the five year periods, as provided for in section 2, shall become effective.

16. In the event of the Association going into liquidation this contract shall become null and void.

C. P. R. CONTRACT HOLDERS ASK NEW CONTRACTS ON PRE-EMPTION PLAN

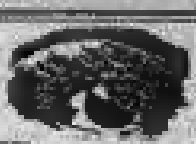
(Continued from page 9)

meet, even with a series of good crops at prices likely to prevail under normal peacetime conditions.

C. P. R. contract holders therefore find themselves hopelessly involved through conditions which were unforeseen both by them and, we believe, by the Canadian Pacific Railway, at the time these lands were sold to settlers. The statements herein made are supported by the fact that thousands have abandoned and other thousands have been unable to fulfill their contracts.

Attend to Your Eyes!

Write to them during the Fair, you will find the quality of our work all you could desire and price also right. Eleven years in Calgary.



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In Interest of all Parties.

3. The proposal that any further payment of principal be deferred until 1935 is made after careful survey of conditions which C.P.R. contract holders are facing. We believe that the proposal to defer further payments of principal until 1935 (with adequate protection of the company's interest) would be in the interest of all parties, as it is absolutely necessary that certain pressing obligations should be met.

Most farmers are in arrears of taxes,—Provincial, Municipal and School taxes.

(a) Many municipalities are unable to carry on effectively, inasmuch as they cannot maintain their present roads, not to speak of constructing new roads,—which are so necessary throughout the country to enable the settlers to get to their nearest market places. Municipalities are crippled also through not being able to pay their overhead charges.

(b) The service of the Provincial Government has been crippled through the inability of the farmers to pay their Provincial taxes.

(c) School taxes are so much in arrears that school districts cannot carry on in many districts.

(d) The Municipal Hail Insurance taxes are also much in arrears.

Unsecured liabilities, such as store bills, etc., should be taken care of, to enable storekeepers and others dependent upon business of farmers in their neighborhood to carry on and continue to give service.

Farmers and their families are in many cases living under deplorable conditions. School attendance is being seriously interfered with on account of parents being unable to clothe their children adequately.

Buildings and fences on most farms are badly in need of repair.

In many cases it will be necessary, if farmers are to make good, that they should discard farming methods which have not proven successful, in favor of systems of farming which have given better results, and this will involve more capital expenditure immediately.

2. Fairness demands that the few farmers who have been able to pay their interest should not be penalized. Consequently, we suggest that such interest payments as have been made since January 1st, 1918, be applied on principal, thus securing to those farmers who have paid interest charges the advantage which is rightfully theirs.

A Necessary Incentive.

4. We believe that it is necessary to hold out to the C.P.R. contract holders the incentive of the definite possibility of being able to own their own farms during their own lifetime. The suggested 34-year amortization plan removes this possibility for most of the present settlers. Most of the settlers of C.P.R. land came here from older settled districts with higher priced land, largely influenced by the desire to own their own farms. We believe that it is necessary still to hold out this inducement to retain them and to attract new settlers.

The suggestion that no interest be charged on the unpaid principal is based on the belief that inasmuch as the great majority of settlers have been unable to meet their interest payments even with war-time prices, it is too much to expect that they would be able to do so under peace-time conditions, even with better crops than have been experienced since 1916. If the land is revalued at its fair producing value, the land itself would be a gilt-edged security and therefore an excessive rate of interest would not be necessary.

Also, we believe that it would be better business to fix a rate of interest which can be met, as it is obvious that when the contract holders find it necessary to defer their payments, this is the very time when they should not be burdened with a high rate of interest.

War-Time Prices Too High.

5. It is apparent that the price placed on some of the lands under war-time conditions was far too high. The price of $25 per acre is as much as the average farmer can be expected to pay from the profit on the land in the next twenty years, as previously shown in reference to interest charges. A well-known Alberta economist recently stated that no land in Alberta was worth $25 per acre, for agricultural purposes, except a little land in the vicinity of the cities. The experience of a large majority of settlers on C.P.R. lands during the past ten years proves this to be correct.

When C.P.R. land was first sold at a price in excess of $25 per acre, this higher price in many cases was based on the price of sugar beet land in the United States. The next sales at the higher price were made following the large crops of 1915 and 1916, and the price then charged was also influenced by the inflated war-time prices of grain.

The sugar-beet industry has not been developed, and the prices of grain have been greatly decreased, but the original high prices of the land still exist as charges against it. The farmers have suffered deflation of the prices of all their products, and if they are to be in a position to pay for their land, it is essential that there should be some reduction in the farmers' overhead in so far as this is based on inflated land values. The number of bushels of wheat required to pay for an acre of land now is much more than double the number of bushels that would have been required at the time when the land was bought. To pay for the land with the same number of bushels of wheat as were required when the high prices prevailed, would necessitate the reduction of land prices to less than $12 per acre. The purchasing power of payments on the land would then equal their war-time purchasing power of $30 per acre. Expressed in terms of livestock, the deflation has been even more marked.

Water Rentals.

6. The lower purchasing power of the dollar affects also the matter of water rentals. Taking this into consideration, a war-time water rental of $6.75 an acre would be about equivalent to $3c. per acre now.

A water rental of $1 per acre, which is the rate specified in the memorandum, may not be enough to cover the operating expense of the eastern section of the irrigation block, with the small number of settlers who are now on that land. But it is all that the farmers can be expected to pay under present market conditions for the produce of the land. We feel confident, however, that if conditions are made such that settlers can remain upon the land, other settlers will be encouraged to come in such numbers that the revenue will easily cover the operating expenses and interest on the investment of the C.P.R. in the water system.

Relief for Actual Producer Only.

7. The memorandum asks that the benefit of a revised contract shall be secured to the occupant of the land, because it would not be of any advantage to the country if anyone but the actual producer were relieved. The committee believe that these producers, and not land speculators, should receive any benefits accruing from adjustments which the C.P.R. may make in reference to land contracts.

8. Where the land is spoiled by reason of the mineral coming to the surface, destroying vegetation, and rendering the land non-productive, this loss should not be borne by the man who has undertaken to make it productive. We do not believe that the C.P.R. would maintain that a settler should be required to pay for land which proves to be useless for the purpose for which it was bought; further, he is actually rendered less able to meet the required payments when the acreage of productive land is reduced.

9. In asking that the C.P.R. assume responsibility for providing outlet for waste water, where there is no natural drainage, the committee would urge that this is part of the irrigation system. The C.P.R. are being paid for the construction of this system, and they are therefore responsible for all its branches.

Yours faithfully,

GLENN L. CARPENDER,

Chairman of Executive Committee.

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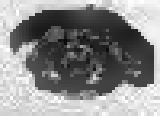
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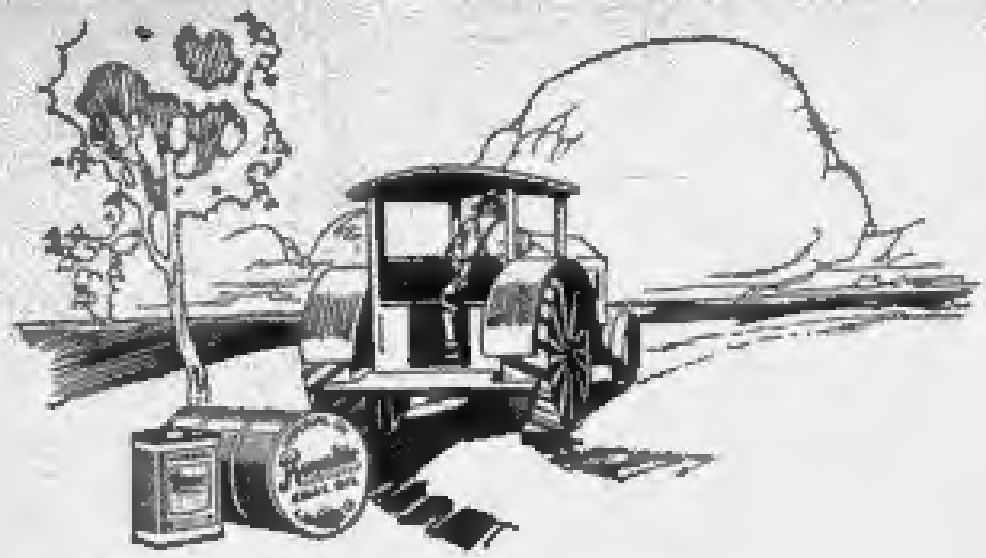

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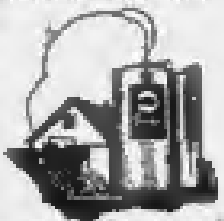

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